where the lands were. He also stated that, with the degeneration of the cattle, great difficulty was experienced in securing cattle manure. He therefore suggested that grazing grounds should be set apart in every *pakuthi* as far as possible and that, in the case of *pakuthies* adjoining reserved forests, the cattle of the locality should be freely allowed to graze in the forests as in the past.

Another class of difficulty which affected cultivation related to green manure. The manure had become scarce owing to the following circumstances:—

(i) With the introduction of Kodayar water, gardens had been fast converted into wet lands.

(ii) The ryots used to obtain the timber required for agricultural implements from the forests. They were no longer permitted to do so and they had therefore to cut down the manure trees for the purpose.

(iii) With the introduction of passes and permits by the Forest Department, the people could not easily procure fuel for their use and therefore they had to fell the green manure trees for fuel.

In the absence of cattle manure and green manure, the only alternative was to use other artificial manures proposed by the Director of Agriculture. But the poverty and agricultural indebtedness of the people had made it impossible for them to go in for those manures. He therefore requested that the Government should permit the ryots to collect green manure from the reserved forests free of all cost.

The Member proceeded to point out the need for the extension of cultivation and the demand for more land for the same. He suggested that portions of the forests which were suitable for cultivation should be assigned to the ryots at reduced rates of *tharavila* and assessment.

In conclusion, he requested that the Government might be pleased to improve the practical utility of the Agricultural Department by widening its scope of activities, that an economic and industrial survey of the State be started to ascertain the economic condition of the people and that a Committee composed of officials and non-officials be appointed to enquire into the difficulties of cultivation in South Travancore and to devise measures to overcome the same.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Member in regard to levy of Court-fees will be referred to the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil for report and necessary orders issued to see that no fees not contemplated by the Regulation are levied on applications.

The other representations and suggestions of the Member will be referred to the Heads of Departments concerned and necessary action taken on receipt of their reports.

45. The desirability of establishing a manure and seed depot in the Chirayinkil taluk.

Mr. K. N. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Chirayinkil taluk) said that paddy and cocoanut cultivation formed the main occupation of the people of the taluk. The ryots experienced much difficulty in getting the required manure from within the taluk, and they were unable to go to Quilon and other places to procure it, in view of their poverty and the heavy transport charges. He therefore prayed for the establishment of a manure and seed depot in the taluk, and added that it would be of benefit not only to the people of the taluk, but also to the agriculturists of five *pakuthies* in the Nedumangad and Trivandrum taluks.

Dewan's reply.—The Director of Agriculture will be asked to report on the Member's representation.

46. The necessity for an economic and industrial survey of the State and for devising a scheme for the development of its economic and industrial resources.

Mr. C. Sankara Menon, B. A., B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Quilon) pointed out that the subject had been pressed on the attention of the Government during the previous sessions of the Assembly and that it was time that the Government abandoned the old *laissez-faire* policy in the matter and grappled with the question seriously. The economic disturbance brought about by the European war had opened the eyes of the people and the Governments in India and in England to the solution of the many problems connected with industries and commerce and various

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efforts were being made to develop industries and commerce. It was therefore imperative on the part of the Government of the State to look ahead and do the needful, so as to keep pace with the progress of the times. The circumstance that the balance of the Government demand was little or that no coercive steps had to be taken to collect the Government revenue or that the import and export trade of the country showed a perceptible increase, could not justify the assumption that the condition of the people was economically sound. What the Government had to do to ascertain the real condition of the people was to make a thorough scientific and systematic investigation of the various economic problems of the State and lay down a definite policy and take the necessary measures for developing the resources of the State and thereby improving the economic condition of the people. No attempt at taking a comprehensive survey of the situation had yet been made. Travancore was no longer self-sufficient and could not therefore be self-reliant, depending as she did, even for the ordinary necessaries of life, upon foreign manufactured articles. But it was not at all unreasonable to aspire to produce in the country at least some of those ordinary necessaries of life.

The Member then proceeded to refer to a few of the important industries of the country and the possibilities of their expansion and development.

(i) *Agriculture.*—It was the premier industry in the State. Nearly two-thirds of the people lived upon it. Over 90 per cent of the exports consisted in the produce of land. It was at present in a backward condition and its development was therefore an important direction for serious and sustained effort. He spoke of the commendable efforts already taken to improve the industry by the Department of Agriculture. But to increase the output of the agricultural produce for supplying the increasing demand of the people, there were only two methods open, *i. e.*, by intensive cultivation and by extension of cultivation. Intensive cultivation would take a long time to make head-way in the State. The only course therefore left was to widen the limits of cultivation. The land policy of the State was therefore an important factor in the economic development of the country, and that policy should not encourage the assignment of lands at the disposal of Government to foreign capitalists for exploitation. It was necessary to take early action in the matter.

(ii) *Cocoanut industry.*—The chief agricultural product on which the economic condition of the country depended was the cocoanut. 80 per cent of the people in the sea-board taluks lived entirely by that industry. It made a substantial contribution to the customs, abkari and land revenue of the State. The Government therefore ought to keep an ever-watchful eye in the development of the product, in increasing its cultivation, in fostering the various industries connected with it, in finding out the best market for it and securing for it the best value possible.

(iii) *Oil-mill industry.*—Prior to 1080, cocoanut oil was being largely exported from the port of Alleppey and from Cochin, which encouraged and fostered the growth of oil industry in the State. A large number of oil presses worked by steam power then came into existence. But a demand for copra was suddenly made by Germany and the price of copra was so much raised that the local mill-owners could not work the mills at a profit. The industry was thus strangled in its very infancy by the European Export Firms and it was transplanted to Germany. The result of the strangling of the industry was felt at the time of the out-break of the war. Trade with Germany stopped and distress in the State became acute. There was demand for oil from the United Kingdom, but it could not be sent as there was in the country only copra and not oil. If the State had come to the rescue of the mill-owners at the time, much of the distress and suffering could have been prevented. The Member referred to the means adopted by the Government of Madras and Bombay and by the Native State of Hyderabad for the development of oil industries and suggested that similar measures should be taken in Travancore. He also pointed out the ruinous effect of the export of copra and other oil seeds and oil cakes. Such exports should be discouraged and the oil mill industry liberally subsidised. The difficulty was to secure a market and the assistance of the Government was required in placing on the market not only the cocoanut but also other agricultural products. He presumed that that was part of the duty performed by the Commercial Agent at

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Alleppey and the Member doubted if the appointment of a European Port Officer at Alleppey would in any way develop the trade in that Port.

(iv) *Fisheries.*—He said that the services of the best available expert should be procured for organising and starting the business and that the subsequent carrying out of the work might be safely entrusted to the local officers.

(v) *Sugar industry.*—Considering the statistics of the export trade of the country since 1070, the Member observed that there was a gradual decline in the value and quantity of jaggery exported. He therefore urged the necessity of investigating the causes which operated to bring about the said decline. He referred to the measures adopted in Java and Mysore to develop the sugar industry and advocated its encouragement by the Government, as the industry had great economic potentialities and enormous possibilities of expansion. He also advocated the encouragement of the manufacture of salt and of leather goods, and the cultivation of tobacco and ganja, and observed that the fear of illicit manufacture and trade in the above articles ought not to deter the Government from encouraging these industries.

(vi) *Forests.*—The question of the development of the resources of the State Forests deserved early and careful consideration. In the opinion of the Member, nothing had yet been done in that direction. No kind of research work was being done by the department. The principles of sylviculture and scientific Working Plans etc., were not yet duly recognised by the department. He suggested that the Divisional Forest Officers must be made to submit quarterly reports of areas visited by them, the particular species of timber or other articles of economic importance found in the localities, the uses to which they might be put, the quantity available, the cost of transport and all other particulars. There ought to be a specialist in forest economics to supervise the above work. The present activities of the department were confined to purely routine business and no attention was paid to the development of the resources of the forests. Promotion among the Forest officers should be determined by the work done by them to develop those resources and not by mere seniority in service or other considerations of a non-professional character.

The Member then pointed out the inadvisability of opening a market in the State for foreign Portland cement by the extensive adoption of Monier works in the public works of the State, especially when there was no suitable market for local timber. He also pointed out the desirability of improving the Geological Department of the State.

For the development of industries, capital, co-operation and State control were required. He therefore suggested:—

(1) That State-aided Banks should be established with branches in all industrial and commercial centres and that the money locked up in the various temples and Devaswoms in the State should be utilised for the purpose.

(2) That co-operative societies should be formed. Those societies should not be mere credit societies but ought to be societies not only for financing the industries, but also for collection, storage and distribution of seeds and agricultural implements and also for the collection and sale of the produce.

(3) That a Director of Industries and Commerce should be appointed to advise both the Government and the people on commercial and industrial matters. There ought to be standing committees in every taluk to report on the economic and industrial condition of the people and to point out their needs.

The above were some of the directions in which the attention of the Government was urgently called for and the Member appealed to the Government to give them their careful and sympathetic consideration.

Mr. D. Govindan Valiathan (Member, Quilon taluk) observed that the present age was pre-eminently an industrial one and that the condition of the several industries in Travancore which were once in a very flourishing state was deplorable. Those industries never kept pace with the progress of the times and were being gradually and steadily supplanted by up-to-date machinery. The carpenters, weavers, goldsmiths, sculptors and potters of the country exhibited an extraordinary degree of skill; but they were fast degenerating on account of their inability to adapt them-

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selves to the progressive tendencies of the age. He therefore urged the necessity of the State rendering the necessary aid to those industries and resuscitating them from their present state of languor and decay. The secret of the prosperity of modern Europe, America and Japan was their industrialism. He also pointed out the great impetus given to industries and industrial education by the State of Baroda.

As regards the School of Arts at Trivandrum, the Member observed that the institution was not of much public utility, inasmuch as it did not impart instruction to students in the various industries practised therein. He suggested that the institution should be reorganised and made more useful to the public. The Weaving Institute at Nagercoil and the Carpentry School at Quilon were the two other establishments in the State to impart technical instruction. He suggested that the above institutions should be thrown open to all classes of people and not confined to weavers and carpenters alone and that they should be placed under the control and supervision of qualified men.

He next referred to the vast quantity of raw products exported from the country and to the manufactured articles imported into it. Most of the manufactured articles could be made in the country itself with the requisite skill and capital. The industries could be started only with State aid and the State should ungrudgingly do the needful in the matter, since the revival of old industries and the establishment of new ones, although they entailed initial expenditure, would bring with it greater affluence and prosperity to the State and the people. He therefore requested that the following measures be adopted in the matter of industrial revival :—

(i) that an industrial survey of the State be undertaken and completed ;

(ii) that a technological college be established at the Capital to teach mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, textile manufacture and chemistry ;

(iii) that an industrial school be opened for each division in the State ; and

(iv) that a Department of Industries should be organised.

Dewan's reply.—The Government regard the proposal for improvement of industries in the State with considerable sympathy. But, before establishing any industries or doing anything effectively for the encouragement of industries, it is essential that an industrial survey should be undertaken, and for doing the work, a very competent expert will have to be employed. Steps will be taken to procure the services of such an expert to undertake an industrial survey, and after the survey is completed and his recommendations are placed before the Government, the necessary action could be taken.

47. The desirability of conducting an agricultural survey of the State, making the study of agriculture compulsory in all schools, and opening a manure depot and an agricultural demonstration farm at Alwaye.

Mr. Sankaran Aiyappen (Member, Alengad taluk) said that, since Travancore was pre-eminently an agricultural country, it was necessary to conduct an agricultural survey of the State to ascertain the different varieties of soil and the kinds of cultivation adapted to those soils. He also suggested that an agricultural school be established in the State to impart the necessary instruction in agriculture or, if that was not feasible, the study of agriculture might be made compulsory in all schools. Lastly, he requested that a manure depot and a demonstration farm be opened at Alwaye so as to benefit the ryots of the Alengad, Parur and Kunnatnad taluks.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

48. The desirability of reserving grazing grounds and opening a manure depot in the Quilon taluk.

Mr. Stephen Joseph (Member, Nominated) expressed the satisfaction of the people that the Government were becoming more and more alive to the necessity of improving the agriculture of the State by introducing modern methods of scientific agriculture. But he observed that the Government had not bestowed sufficient attention to the question of affording ample facilities for cattle breeding and cattle grazing. So far as the taluk of Quilon was concerned, there was no such facility and the condition of cattle was deplorable. He therefore suggested that the Government might be pleased to reserve at least two plots of waste lands about 100 acres each, one at Kottiyam and the other at Velinallur for grazing purposes.

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